

Comment

The College newsletter

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King's honours staff

The King's Awards 2008: celebrating the excellence of staff, students and alumni

THE 2008 KING'S AWARDS DINNER

took place at The Inner Temple on 18 September. For the second year, members of the College community gathered to celebrate the excellence and contributions of staff, students and alumni.

Katherine Grainger, Olympic Silver medallist and student at King's, accepted the Principal's Award, a new award which this year recognised the success of Katherine and her King's team mates, alumni Frances Houghton and Annabel Vernon, in rowing at the Olympic Games.

The Lifetime Achievement Award was shared between Margaret Brown, Professor of Mathematics Education, and Robin Murray, Professor of Psychiatry.

Other winners included: Dr Michael Goodman and Dr Jonathan Mill, Young Researcher of the Year; Dr Stephen Minger, Media Personality of the Year; Professor Robert Walton, Helen Hudson Award; Professor Judith Herrin, Academic Author of the Year; Nicola Sainsbury and Dr Mary Davies, Professional Services Award; Dr Barbara Moreland, Lecturer of the Year; Professor Chris Shaw, Research Project of the Year; Professor Adrian Hayday, Business Development Award; and Lucia Boswell and Vivien Cheah, Staff Volunteers of the Year.

Principal Professor Rick Trainor comments: 'The King's Awards

New student support centre opened



The Compass, the College's first centre offering a variety of services to support students, was opened in October. Read more about the launch on page 13.

dinner is a night for celebration and not only recognises those who have made an outstanding contribution to the College but provides a forum to develop friendships and collaborations to the benefit of us all.

Adam Boulton, Sky News' Political Editor and member of College Council, reprised the role of Master of Ceremonies.

Turn to pages 6 and 7 for photos of the event. A full list of the winners can be found at: <http://kcl.ac.uk/media/awards/>

STOP PRESS

King's rise in global rankings

King's place as one of the world's leading universities has been confirmed again with the publication of the *Times Higher Education*-QS World University Rankings.

The College has risen to 22nd, an increase of two places on last year. This year's position marks a consistent rise for the College

which was rated 73rd in 2005, 46th in 2006 and 24 in 2007. The *Times Higher Education* league table reflects a combination of factors including academic peer review, employer review, research citations and student/staff ratios. Full details of the story will be published in the next issue of *Comment*.

Wargaming aids biotech crisis

KING'S SOCIAL SCIENCE SPIN-OUT

company, Simulstrat Limited, who develop and run simulations based on wargaming methodology to deliver solutions to client-specific problems, were called in by The Bioscience Futures Forum over the summer to set up a 'game' on the funding crisis in UK biotech.

The significance of Biotech for the UK economy led to Radio 4 broadcasting a 30 minute programme in August about this wargame for Peter Day's *World of*

Business programme.

Ken Charman, Chief Executive Officer of Simulstrat, explains: 'Most of our work is so mission critical it is conducted behind locked doors. This was the first game we have operated in the public domain.'

'A great success'

'There is no doubt it proved the value of the wargame methodology. Top people

played the game and generated a consensus view on how to address the current crisis in funding mid stage UK biotechs.'

The methodology of wargaming has its origins in the military where King's has a strong connection via the Department of War Studies. This simulation was designed to bring parties together who have different viewpoints to share a common experience and build a consensus solution.

'The day was a great success...

and made a very strong argument for better funded spinout projects in the future,' concludes Mr Charman.

The Bioscience Futures Forum is an expert group to represent the views and interests of the UK Biotech sector, and to encourage a more supportive environment for biotechscience development. It identifies issues and brings them to the attention of politicians and senior civil servants in a way that establishes the basis for change.

£1 million cardiac grant



PROFESSOR TOBIAS SCHAEFFTER,

Philip Harris Chair in Imaging Sciences at King's, has been awarded a £1 million grant to develop novel devices and imaging technology for minimal-invasive treatment of certain heart problems.

This funding, granted jointly from Philips Healthcare and the Technology Strategy Board (a public body, sponsored by the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills), will allow Professor Schaeffter and

his team to develop new tools to treat cardiac arrhythmias, which cause the heart to beat irregularly, potentially leading to strokes, heart failure or sudden death.

Cardiac arrhythmia diagnosis and treatment is usually performed under X-ray guidance, but this does not give the cardiologist sufficient detail. In addition, both patient and staff are exposed to a significant amount of radiation.

Professor Schaeffter's project will develop the first Magnetic Resonance (MR) guided arrhythmia therapy procedure using a novel catheter device, which avoids radiation completely. The team will also develop non-invasive MR-techniques to visualise the treatment lesions for individual assessment of therapy.

Industrial partner in the project, Philips Healthcare have a long history of collaboration with imaging scientists at King's.

Principal's Column

GREG FUNNELL



Dear Colleagues

Firstly I would like to congratulate every member of the College on our rise to 22nd place (5th in the UK) in the *THE* World University league tables. This is particularly gratifying when over two thirds of other British Universities in the top 100 have dropped places this year. A high placing in this league table is especially important because the global nature of higher education is increasingly evident.

The trend in our position in two domestic league tables, however, has been downward, largely as a result of the national

student survey. We are devoting much attention to these results in order to make real improvements to the student experience, not least with regard to assessment and feedback. There are many initiatives under way such as the Graduate Project and the opening of The Compass (see page 13), a new information centre for students.

Like most universities we await the release in mid-December of the results of the RAE with much anticipation. We are also preparing vigorously for the forthcoming institutional audit by the Quality Assurance Agency, which I expect the College to pass with flying colours; it is very important that we do so.

Lastly, despite the economic downturn we are still in negotiations with Somerset House about acquiring part of their estate. I sincerely hope that, finally, I will have more to report in the next issue of *Comment*!

Rick Trainor

More equity for academics

THE COLLEGE'S CODE OF PRACTICE FOR

intellectual property, commercial exploitation and financial benefits has been revised to encourage staff to commercialise the outputs of their research.

The Code relates to the ownership, protection and commercial exploitation of intellectual property created by

College staff in the course of their duties, for example in the licensing of new technologies to industry or the formation of a spin-out company from the College.

The changes to the Code mean that revenue-sharing procedure is now more generous than that of similar universities. The procedure has also been simplified and

will now operate such that the originating academic units will benefit directly.

Chris Mottershead, Vice-Principal (Research) comments: 'Research produces new knowledge which at times has great commercial value. We have changed the rules to generously reward staff whose

work has direct commercial benefit. I would encourage you to make full use of this facility as it is designed to enhance the College's entrepreneurial activities.'

The new code of practice for intellectual property is available to download on the College website at: www.kcl.ac.uk/college/policyzone

Counting cosmic rays

SCIENTISTS FROM KING'S BEGAN

working with pupils at Highgate School in September to detect, analyse and understand the effects of cosmic rays. This project, the first of its kind in the UK, is designed to involve pupils in real scientific research.

Using specially-built cosmic ray detectors placed in the school grounds, the pupils will be involved in experiments which could make important contributions to scientific discovery in this field. The project is based upon similar ones elsewhere in the world.

Cosmic rays are sub-atomic particles from space that are continually bombarding the earth, but are so small they cannot be seen or felt. Cosmic rays are generated by the sun, by sources such as neutron stars, supernovae and black holes in the galaxy in

which the earth is located.

They are crucial to interpreting how the universe was created, and understanding their behaviour has important implications for the manned exploration of space.

Three cosmic ray detectors, assembled by undergraduate physics students from King's, have been placed in the grounds of Highgate School, north London. The project came about following King's Physics final year student, Jasper Pandza, taking part in an Undergraduate Ambassador Scheme to the school.

The project is being led by Professors Alan Michette and James Pinfold, Department of Physics. Professor Pinfold is a Leverhulme Visiting Professor at King's who has undertaken similar projects in Canada, North America and Mexico.



From left: **Professor Alan Michette, Jasper Pandza** and **Professor James Pinfold**.

These experiments relate directly to the GCSE and A-level syllabuses, enhancing pupils' learning through direct experience. It is planned that

more detectors will be set up in other schools. 'We'd like to set up a gigantic array, using GPS to link schools around the world,' says Professor Pinfold.

Detecting forest fires in Asia

A FOREST FIRE AND SMOKE POLLUTION

monitoring system for Asia is the latest King's project to win funding from Innovation China-UK (ICUK). Seven King's projects have now successfully bid for grants from ICUK.

The latest is an award of £63,500 made to a project led by Martin Wooster, Professor of Earth Observation Science of the Department of Geography.

The project 'Development of a geostationary forest fire monitoring and characterising



system for China and the wider Asia region' will allow the Chinese National Satellite Meteorological Centre access to the wild fire detection algorithms, and software developed at King's, and will

enable the team to access real-time data from Chinese satellites in order to develop a forest fire monitoring system for China and Asia.

The data will also be sent back to the UK to act as a component of a 'global' fire emissions monitoring system being developed by King's and collaborators for the purposes of air quality forecasting.

Professor Wooster comments: 'We are absolutely delighted to have won this ICUK money, which gives us access to Chinese

satellite data that is vital for our long-term goal of building a geographic information system for estimating real-time atmospheric emissions from global wildfires.

'Though the funding is only for a year, we already have much of the software operating with European satellites through an existing National Environment Research Council grant, and have a further year's funding secured through an EU research project that will help build the global system.'

Modern Language Centre wins major contract

A NEW LANGUAGE TRAINING

contract has been awarded to the Modern Language Centre (MLC) at King's by the European Medicines Agency (EMA), the European Union body responsible for coordinating existing scientific resources put at its disposal by Member States for the evaluation, supervision and

pharmacovigilance of medicinal products.

The four-year contract is worth €1.4 million and the MLC was ranked first in a cascade of providers. Languages taught will include English, French, German, Greek, Italian, Polish, Portuguese, Spanish and Swedish.

The courses will be taught

within the Common European Framework of reference for Languages (CEFR).

Ms Dominique Borel, Director for the Centre comments: 'I am delighted the MLC succeeded in securing this prestigious contract as the number one language training provider to the EMA, especially given the organisation's

relevance to King's activities in the field of Medicine and Research. The EMA contract is the second large Public Sector contract awarded to the MLC within the last 12 months and testifies to the MLC team's professionalism, commitment and expertise in language training delivery.'

Launch of Spanish theatre project

'OUT OF THE WING'S', A UNIQUE

Spanish theatre translation project that seeks to open up the riches of the theatres of the Spanish-speaking world to English-language theatre practitioners, was launched at King's in September.

Opening the riches of Spanish theatre

'The origins of the project are in the Royal Shakespeare Company's highly successful Spanish Golden Age season 2004-5,' explains Professor Catherine Boyle, Department of Spanish and

Spanish-American Studies.

She continues: 'The great value of that season is that it brought academics and theatre practitioners together in an unusual but highly fruitful collaboration. This project will build upon and extend that collaboration.'

Through the creation of a wide-ranging and fully interactive website, the project will help English-speaking practitioners become more familiar with, and gain greater knowledge of, Spanish-language theatre.

The website will enable users to make programming choices by searching for plays by theme,



number of characters, keywords, author, country or period. Sample translations of each play, as well as synopses and detailed production notes, will further help practitioners to decide which plays suit their particular needs.

By the end of the three-year project, which has been funded by a Research Grant from the Arts and Humanities Research Council, the website will contain entries of around 300 plays drawn from right across the Spanish-speaking world.

The technical research and development will be undertaken by the Centre for Computing in the Humanities at the College, and will combine approaches that are fast becoming staples of digital scholarship (text encoding and relational data modeling) with aspects of community engagement familiar from the contemporary experience of the internet.

Asthma vaccine hope

DR ALISTAIR NOBLE FROM THE MRC & Asthma UK Centre in Allergic Mechanisms of Asthma at King's, has developed a new technology for vaccine development which could be used for a variety of diseases such as asthma, tuberculosis, HIV and influenza.

The research published in a paper in the *Journal of Immunology* has found that combining adjuvant molecules that are already known to be safe to use in humans, increases the immune responses that can be generated with a simple protein or peptide target to a much greater level than is achievable if the adjuvants are used alone and not in combination.

Adjuvants are substances that amplify the immune response, and are required to induce the high

levels of T cells (white blood cells) that are necessary to kill infected or malignant cells.

Dr Noble's team have shown that the new adjuvant known as CASAC is much more effective than existing approaches in treating melanoma (cancer) in an animal model, but the technology could also be used in a wide variety of vaccines for other diseases.

The work was funded by Asthma UK and King's. Dr Elaine Vickers, Research Relations Manager at Asthma UK comments: 'These are exciting initial findings, which could help scientists overcome some of the problems they have experienced when trying to develop effective immunotherapy treatments in the past.'

Muscles discovery at King's

Dr Mathias Gautel, Professor of Molecular Cardiology from the Randall Division for Cell & Molecular Biophysics and his team from the Cardiovascular Division at King's, have shown for the first time, how muscle can be regulated by mechanical force, a finding that is likely to be typical for other biological systems.

In a paper published in the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, the team proved their long suspected theory that the giant protein titin, an elastic connection holding the muscles contractile machinery together, contains a signalling domain that can be switched on mechanically.

The research will help towards the understanding of conditions which involve loss of muscle mass, such as Edström's Myopathy, a lethal muscle disease.

The work, funded by the Medical Research Council, European Union and Centre for Integrated Protein Science in Munich, was a joint project between Professor Gautel's team and the Max-Planck-Institute for biophysical Chemistry in Göttingen, Germany.

This research is part of the work being undertaken within the King's British Heart Foundation (BHF) Centre of Excellence, recently established with £9 million funding from the BHF.

150 years of Gray's Anatomy

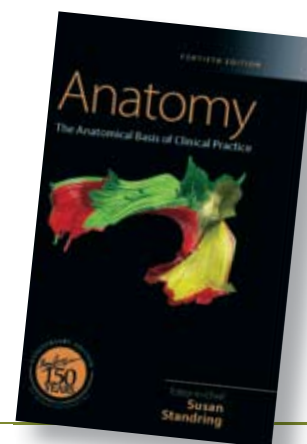
IMAGES OF A NOVEL NEUROIMAGING technique have been used by *Gray's Anatomy* for the cover of their 150th anniversary edition of the world's oldest and most popular anatomy textbook.

The image is taken from a study carried out three years ago by Dr Marco Catani and colleagues

at the Institute of Psychiatry, who used a modified magnetic resonance technique, to perform virtual dissections of the language pathways in human brains.

Professor Susan Standring, Department of Anatomy & Human Sciences and Editor-in-Chief, said: 'What better than an

image of the language pathways, demonstrated using state-of-the-art technology, to confirm that after 150 years of continuous publication, *Gray's* remains true to its original aim of communicating the anatomical basis of clinical practice to its readers, combining text and stunning illustrations.'



Professor Margaret Brown

Margaret Brown, Professor of Mathematics Education, was joint recipient of this year's Lifetime Achievement Award with Professor Robin Murray, Institute of Psychiatry, in the King's Awards. Here she talks about her 39-year career with the College, her work outside King's and what the future holds in store.

Describe your career at the College.

In 1969 I was enjoying life as a maths teacher in Hemel Hempstead when out of the blue a telegram landed from the first ever Professor of Mathematics Education, at Chelsea College, asking me to go and see him that evening. We hit it off and he offered me on the spot the post of lecturer in mathematics education in a new Centre for Science Education. As I was about to marry a Whitehall-based civil servant, an unsolicited job offer along the District Line was serendipitous.

My first research experience came when a team of us at Chelsea landed the then largest ever grant from what is now the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), to investigate the development of 'Concepts in Secondary Mathematics and Science'. We established a learning progression in mathematics (which later formed the basis for the national curriculum), a major assessment programme and a best-selling textbook series. It also got me a PhD along the way.

Since then I've directed more than 25 research projects on the teaching, learning and assessment of mathematics at every level from early years to university and adult basic numeracy.

Chelsea merged with King's in 1985, and in 1992 I was parachuted unexpectedly into a Head of School post to take over from Arthur Lucas when he became acting Principal. This involved being the only female member of the rather distinguished 12-member College Committee. College decision-making was an interesting experience but it squeezed out the research and policy work I was committed to, so I gratefully resumed life as a normal academic in 1996. The one contribution I am quite proud of was to have added '... in the service of society' to the end of the College mission statement.

In all the 39 years I've been at Chelsea/King's I've only applied for one other post, and was pretty relieved not to get it. I've never really felt a desire to work anywhere else (and I know the competition pretty well). I've been lucky to have had a sequence of brilliant collaborators on hand, have enjoyed the stimulation and friendship of some great colleagues, and have appreciated the civilised ethos of King's.

Tell us about your work outside King's.

As a mathematics educationist it's almost impossible to do significant research without getting involved both with maths teachers, and with policy makers. At times I've been able to use the status of elected positions (eg President of the Mathematical Association and of the British Educational Research Association, Chair of the Joint Mathematical Council of the UK, Deputy Chair of the Royal Society Education Committee) to engage in policy critique.

I am rather proud that my various research results have been denounced in the national press by two ministers of education (one from each party) when these contradicted their policies. I have also worked on the other side as a member of government-appointed committees (again from both parties), including the National Curriculum Mathematics Working Group, and the (Primary) Numeracy Task Force. In addition, I've directed government-funded teams, developing and piloting the first national mathematics SATs at secondary level, evaluating the maths national curriculum, and proposing redesigned mathematics curricula across the 14-19 age range.

Recently I've been a member of the Advisory Committee on Mathematics Education, which has involved a further series of battles with government and its agencies.

What attracted you about the field of mathematics education and why have you made it your life's work?

My best experiences have come through tackling difficult and important problems with a team of intelligent, committed and fun people. In my youth I thought mathematics had the best problems. After a Cambridge first, mathematical research might have been the obvious path, but sitting in a library with only symbols for company for three years sounded a lonely experience, whereas teaching allowed me to indulge my passions for both mathematics and people. I later found that mathematics problems were simple compared with those in mathematics education, which have provided continuing challenges.

What are your future plans?

I'm enjoying working with colleagues and



DAVID TETT

Fact file

Book on my bedside table

I gave up fiction sometime in my finals year, and I haven't yet had time to get back into it. So on holiday I read mathematical histories/biographies – recently I've enjoyed Paul Hoffman on Paul Erdos, and James Gleick on chaos theory, which contain a good balance between the mathematical, the personal and the social.

Favourite holiday destination

Music festivals in places like Salzburg and Lucerne combine mountains, lakes, music and art.

Proudest work moment

Receiving a Lifetime award in September from the Principal was a pretty special moment. Outside the College, the final celebratory dinner of the RAE 2008 Education Sub-Panel, which I chaired, was also a recent high.

teachers on a new three-year ESRC project to improve the teaching of algebra and multiplicative reasoning through formative assessment in the early secondary phase.

I have an overdue book to finish and another contracted. I also plan to help out a day a week in a primary school where I am a governor, and in a local secondary. I'm still on some national advisory committees. And there's a first grandchild on the way. So the gardening will have to wait!

King's Awards 2008

ALL PHOTOS BY GREG FUNNELL



The Inner Temple's Main Hall provided a fitting backdrop to the presentation of the awards.



Winners of the Greatest Student Group Achievement were the KCL Diwali Society. From left: **Rajdeep Sadhra**, **Rahil Mandalia**, **Puja Ghumra**, **Nirooban Sivarajah** and **Alan Ganesh**.



The Business Development Award went to **Professor Adrian Hayday** (left), presented by Professor Sir Lawrence Freedman.



Professor Nairn Wilson (left) won the award for Staff Member Who has Contributed the Most to Outreach/Student Recruitment.



Olympic rower **Katherine Grainger**, pictured with Professor Trainor, collected the Principal's Award for her dedication to, and success in, the sport of rowing.



Sky News' Political Editor and member of Council, Adam Boulton reprised the role of Master of Ceremonies for the second year running.



Professor Judith Herrin (pictured with Professor Keith Hoggart) won the award for Academic Author of the Year for her acclaimed book, *Byzantium: The Surprising Life of a Medieval Empire*.



Professor Stephen Minger (far left) won Media Personality of the Year, while **Professor Barbara Moreland** (second from right) was named Lecturer of the Year.



From left: Professor Anne Marie Rafferty, with Supervisory Excellence Award winner, **Professor Sarah Cowley**, Leon Cowley, and Dr Patricia Grocott.



Margaret Brown, Professor of Mathematics Education (pictured left), was this year's Lifetime Achievement Award winner, along with **Robin Murray**, Professor of Psychiatry at the Institute of Psychiatry (pictured right).



Professor Lawrence Freedman (centre) presented the award for Young Researcher of the Year to **Dr Jonathan Mill** from the Institute of Psychiatry (left) and **Dr Michael Goodman** from the Department of War Studies.



Staff Volunteers of the Year was awarded to **Lucia Boswell** and **Vivien Cheah** for their help and contributions to the charity Blackfriars Settlement.



Alumnus of the Year 2008, **Sir Ian Gainsford** with presenter Dame Janet Nelson.



Professor Chris Shaw (left), pictured with Professor Sir Lawrence Freedman, was the deserved winner of Research Project of the Year.



Nicola Sainsbury and **Dr Mary Davies** won the Professional Services Award for their efforts on the RAE submission.

The Department of Anatomy & Human Sciences

Anatomy is an ancient and classic medical discipline, but as the new Head of Department Professor Jon Clarke explains, how the subject is taught is constantly evolving.

THE DEPARTMENT OF ANATOMY & Human Sciences at King's is part of the School of Biomedical & Health Sciences, based at the Guy's Campus. It currently has 24 academic staff, with an excellent balance of experienced teachers and international researchers.

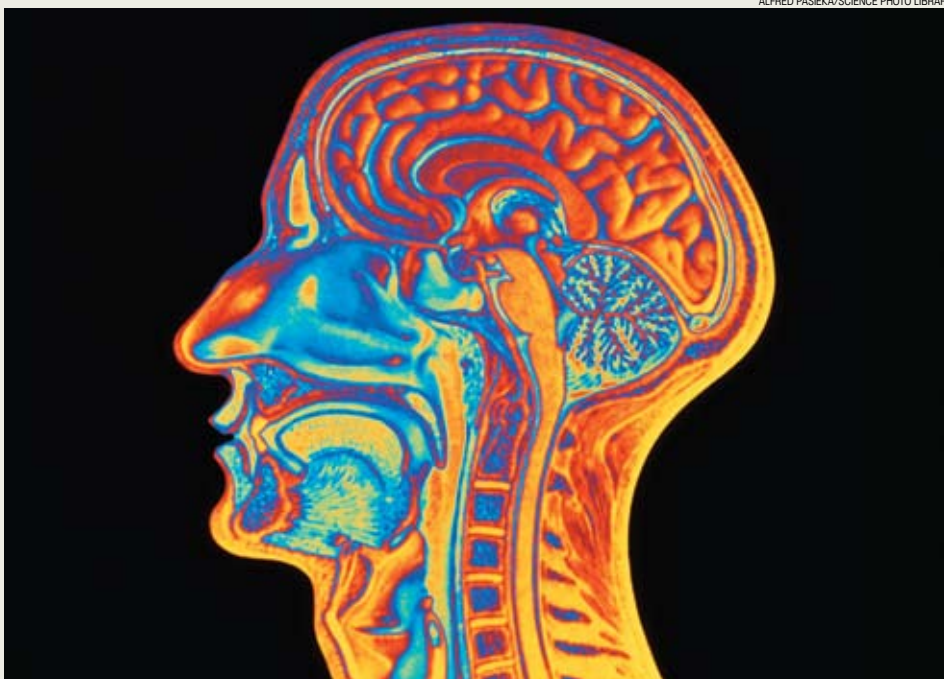
Members of the Department provide courses in functional and applied topographical anatomy (including surface and radiological anatomy), neuro-anatomy and histology, for medical, dental, physiotherapy and science students. In addition to the Department's non-clinical staff, there is a team of experienced clinical anatomists and surgical demonstrators who largely teach in the practical classes, and who are able to reinforce their teaching with a variety of up-to-date clinical knowledge and anecdotes.

As well as anatomy-based teaching, the Department is particularly strong in the fields of developmental biology, neuroscience and cell biology and it delivers research-led courses in these topics to both undergraduate and graduate students. 'We believe the quality of our teaching is high, and members of the Department have frequently been voted 'Best Teacher of the Year' by medical and science students', says Professor Jon Clarke, the new Head of the Department.

Anatomy is changing

Although anatomy is an ancient and classic medical discipline it is not standing still. The traditional methods of teaching anatomy are being invigorated by the introduction of computer reconstructions of the body's architecture. The imaging techniques designed for diagnosis in the clinic – for example ultrasound, CT, MRI and PET – generate virtual bodies whose internal structure can be analysed prior to surgical intervention. 'These data are also perfect teaching aids', points out Professor Clarke, 'because computer trickery allows virtual dissections as each organ of the body to be viewed either in isolation or in relation to its normal neighbouring tissues.

The virtual bodies have other advantages too. Unlike the preserved cadavers of the traditional dissecting room, the computer-generated bodies are derived from images of living humans and they are indestructible by a nervous student's scalpel. No longer will the anatomy



Brain scan. Coloured Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) scan through a human head, showing a healthy brain in side view.

demonstrator be able to say to the student 'sorry I can't find the accessory nerve, you must have sliced it off'.

Dissecting

Of course the introduction of these medical imaging methods to the classroom will not mean that the dissecting room becomes redundant. 'We will continue to include the dissection of human cadavers and the examination of prosected (ie prepared) body parts in our courses because we believe that there is no substitute for the 'hands on' experience of three-dimensional human anatomy', says Professor Clarke. 'Many students say that dissection is the best feature of our teaching programmes, and it will remain important for students to explore real bodies, but this approach will increasingly be augmented by sophisticated computer imaging.' The Department has two well-equipped dissecting rooms, both sited in the Hodgkin Building.

The material available for students to study is complimented by the fantastic collection of human organs and exquisite models in the Gordon Museum, a separately-managed resource on the Guy's site but one that works closely with the Department of Anatomy.

Research

Most of the Department's staff are also members of research divisions in the School of Biomedicine & Health Sciences as well as School of Medicine. Staff research interests include the development and repair mechanisms of the brain; the mechanisms of cell migration; pain; human brain function; how the brain controls reproduction; small mammal ecology, and muscle cell biology. Each of these special interests is integrated into the teaching to ensure the students get a feel for the excitement of research and an understanding of some of the questions currently being addressed.

Gray's Anatomy

'Not many departments have a popular TV series named (allowing for a slight difference in spelling) after their favourite textbook', Jon Clarke says. 'The Department at Guy's Campus has a long association with the classic medical textbook, *Gray's Anatomy*, and this continues as Editor-in-Chief Professor Susan Standing oversees the latest edition. Revitalised in 2004, this classic title is now also accompanied by an 'e-dition' format that combines the traditional text with CD-ROMs containing all the illustrations.'

Honorary Degrees 2008

A Nobel Laureate, the President of the Royal Society and a leading scholar in Confucian studies are among this year's eight King's College London Honorary Graduates.

They will receive their degrees at a ceremony at the College on 26 November. The full list of new Honorary Graduates for 2008 are:

Professor Michael Bishop, Chancellor of the University of California, San Francisco
Professor Peter Brown FBA, Rollins Professor of History and Director of the Program in Hellenic Studies, Princeton University
Dr James Lovelock CH CBE FRS, key figure in thinking about

life and climate change, and developer of the Gaia theory
Professor Joseph Raz FBA, Professor at the Law School, Columbia University, and Research Professor, University of Oxford

Baron Rees of Ludlow OM Kt FRS, Astronomer Royal, President of the Royal Society, and Master of Trinity College, Cambridge

Professor Junji Tagami, Dean of the Tokyo Medical and Dental University

Professor Romila Thapar, Emeritus Professor in History at the Jawaharlal Nehru University

Professor Tu Wei-Ming, Harvard-Yenching Professor of Chinese History and Philosophy at Harvard University.

New Head for SSPP



Professor Denise Lievesley

Professor Denise Lievesley has taken up the position of Head of the School of Social Science & Public Policy, to provide an institutional focus for social science teaching and research at King's, succeeding Professor Christopher Dandeker.

Professor Lievesley is one of the country's leading social statisticians, who has been committed to protecting the integrity of official statistics and ensure that they remain free from political influence.

Her various roles have led her to work with ministers, ambassadors, senior civil servants and officials of international agencies, for which

she has established a reputation for upholding the principles of professional integrity, policy relevance and methodological transparency.

Professor Lievesley comments: 'I am very fortunate to be joining a university with such strength in the social sciences. One of my early tasks will be to seek the views of both academic staff and students on the future development of the School in order to help shape my priorities. I am looking forward to developing further the links with other Schools at King's, and exploiting the synergies across departments within the School.'

Professor Keith Hoggart, Vice-Principal (Arts & Sciences) says: 'I am delighted that the School of Social Science & Public Policy is to have a Head of such distinction and experience as Denise Lievesley. The School is very fortunate to attract a leader who has the vision and drive to be able to enhance and extend the outstanding capabilities it already possesses.'

King's playwright centre stage

Roger Mayhew, Staff Development Consultant at King's, took to the boards in September with the



Roger Mayhew

production of his play *Kitchen Nights*, at the King's Head Theatre in Islington.

Both written and directed by Roger, *Kitchen Nights* encompasses five short plays. Each play is set in the kitchen and their themes vary from humour, drama, mystery and tragedy.

He comments: '*Kitchen Nights* is about relationships – all my plays tend to be on that theme – and it portrays five different encounters with five different outcomes. I chose the kitchen because I think it is the beating heart of the home

where ambitions can be declared, relationships started and ended, the future predicted, the past revealed and sometimes lives threatened.'

In 2006, Roger won the Playwright of the Year Award at the central London based Player-Playwrights for his farce *A First Time for Everything*.

Five star review for King's CD

Into the Little Hill; *Dance Figures*; *Sometime Voices*, the classical CD by **Professor George Benjamin**, Henry Purcell Professor of Composition at King's, has received a five star review in *The Guardian*.

Reviewer Andrew Clements said of the CD: '*Into the Little Hill* [premiered in Paris in 2006] was George Benjamin's first modest venture into the world of music theatre. Just two singers, a soprano and a contralto, are required to unfold Martin Crimp's acerbic updating of the story of the Pied Piper of Hamelin... it is an exquisite piece, full of beguiling sounds.'

Comms collect CASE award



From left: **Chris Coe**, **Christine Ayre**, **Sue Buchanan** and **John Lippincott**, CASE President.

Christine Ayre, Head of Corporate Identity, **Chris Coe**, Director of Communications, and designer **Sue Buchanan** collected the Bronze Award in the 'Individual Institutional Relations' category for the King's Calendar at the

international CASE conference in Brighton in August. The purpose of the publication was to 'promote interest and a sense of belonging amongst staff, friends of and stakeholders in the College'.

HRH awards water prize



HRH Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden presents King's Geographer **Professor Tony Allan** the 2008 Stockholm Water Prize for his pioneering concept of 'virtual water'. He received the \$150,000 prize at a ceremony and Royal Banquet in the Stockholm City Hall in August. Professor Tim Butler, Head of the Department of

Geography commented: 'This prize gives recognition to Tony Allan's seminal contribution to our understanding of the importance of water. His concept of virtual water has transformed our understanding of the importance of this vital resource.' Full details of the Prize can be found in *Comment 181*.

Shipman drama

Brian Hurwitz, D'Oyly Carte Professor of Medicine & the Arts at King's, was advisor to the drama documentary about Harold Shipman, aired by the BBC World Service in September.

The play is interwoven with interviews and one of Shipman's patients and seeks to shed a very different light on this horrifying story and how a community tries to cope, 10 years on.

Professor Hurwitz comments: 'I am fascinated by the life and activities of Harold Shipman because they offer the most

ominous illustration imaginable of the unbridled power that a murderous medic, a posturing practitioner or a hoax clinician can wield over unsuspecting patients.'

Professor Hurwitz was recently awarded a prestigious Wellcome Trust £2 million strategic award to establish a centre of excellence in the emerging field of medical humanities.

Tadion Rideal Prize 2007

The Tadion Rideal Prize 2007 has been jointly awarded to two candidates: **Dr Ross Kelly**,

Department of Physics, and **Dr Andrew Wood**, Division of Genetics & Molecular Science.

Dr Kelly, supervised by Dr Len Kantorovitch, was joint winner of the award for his doctoral thesis 'Theoretical Modelling of Two Dimensional DNA Base Assemblies', while Dr Wood, supervised by Dr Rebecca Oakey, won the award for his doctoral thesis 'The Identification and Characterisation of Novel Imprinted Genes'.

The Tadion Rideal Prize, which is valued at up to £1,000, is awarded annually to students of King's who have carried out exceptional doctoral research in the area of Molecular Science.

The Prize was instituted in 1983 by a gift of £10,000 from Dr J Tadion to commemorate his association with the late Sir Eric Rideal FRS and King's.

Major literary prize for Dr Brant



Dr Clare Brant

Dr Clare Brant, Senior Lecturer in the Department of English, has been awarded one of the 2008 European Society for the Study of English (ESSE) prizes for her book *Eighteenth-Century Letters and British Culture*.

The book, which offers an extensively-researched understanding of the central place of letters in 18th-century writing, and a new way of looking at 18th-century life, beat off stiff competition in the category of 'Field of Literatures in the English language'.

In the ESSE citation, the judges said: 'Clare Brant offers an excellent survey of letter-writing as well as a profound, well-researched and documented study of the 18th-century British culture'.

Dr Brant comments: 'I am delighted to have won this ESSE prize – it is a great honour from an international association of breadth and cutting-edge significance.'

The prize was presented to Dr Brant in Aarhus in Denmark at the end of August. It is significant that a book about a period and a genre will be recognised across Europe as a work of substantial and valuable scholarship.

HFC Literary Translation Prize

Professor Roderick Beaton, Head Byzantine & Modern Greek Studies at King's, has won the Hellenic Foundation for Culture (HFC) Literary Translation Prize 2008 for the translation of *Levant Journal* by George Seferis.

Professor Beaton was presented with the award by Sir Peter Stothard, editor-in-chief of the *Times Literary Supplement* magazine, at a ceremony held at the Queen Elizabeth Hall (South Bank Centre) on 29 September.

On winning the award, Professor Beaton commented: 'I am especially proud to have won this award, which I hope will help to find new readers for Seferis, as well as doing credit to Ibis Editions, who certainly deserve it.'

Nobel prize-winner, Greek poet and diplomat George Seferis is a key figure of 20th century literature. *Levant Journal* presents for the first time in English selections from the journals he kept while travelling in the Middle East.

Comms top 100

For the second year running King's Director of Communications, **Chris Coe**, has been elected to the *CorpComms 100 Club* – the 100 most influential in-house PR professionals in the country. Chris was elected for his leadership of the College's strategic communication, such as promotion of the College's groundbreaking research and keynote speeches from influential figures including the Prime Minister, Gordon Brown, and former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan.

The constant gardener

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the death of the surgeon and eminent botanist John Forbes Royle (1798-1858), Professor of Materia Medica & Therapeutics at King's from 1836 to 1856.

JOHN FORBES ROYLE WAS BORN IN Cawnpore, India, in 1798, the only son of Captain William Henry Royle, who was serving with the East India Company at the time. He was educated in Edinburgh and later trained in medicine, believing that a medical career would allow him to pursue his interests in natural history, particularly botany.

Royle obtained a post as an assistant surgeon in the service of the East India Company and was sent to India in 1819, serving on the medical staff of the Bengal army at various stations before succeeding Dr George Govan (1787-1865) as Curator of the Saharanpur Botanic Garden in the Himalayas in 1823.

Quinine

As curator, he transformed the gardens; he had them landscaped and cleared of invasive shrubs, and had a lake dug for aquatic plants. He sent collectors as far as the borders of Tibet and the mountains around the Vale of Kashmir in search of plants for the garden.

Royle's particular interest was in plants with an economic or medicinal value and he established a nursery for their cultivation at the hill-station at Mussoorie.

Royle was the first to recommend the introduction of the cinchona plant, from the bark of which quinine can be extracted, to India, believing that 'after the Chinese teas, no more important plants could be introduced into India'. By the time he left the garden in 1831, over 4,000 species of plants were under cultivation at Saharanpur.

Collections

Royle returned to England in 1831, bringing his extensive collections of botanical specimens with him and in 1833 was elected a fellow of the Linnean Society. In 1836 he succeeded John Ayrton Paris as Professor of Materia Medica & Therapeutics at King's College London. Royle had made a detailed study of Indian traditional medicine and of the plant remedies used in it while at Saharanpur and this study formed the basis of his *Essay on the antiquity of Hindoo medicine, including an introductory lecture to the course of materia medica and therapeutics*, delivered at King's College (1837).

In this he outlined his ideas on the originality of the ancient Hindu medical texts, the efficacy of the remedies contained in them and the



Plates for: 'Himalayan birds of European forms' and 'Two species of cotton, *Gossypium herbaceum* and *Gossypium arboreum*', from **Royle's** *Illustrations of the botany and other branches of the natural history of the Himalayan Mountains and of the Flora of Cashmere* (London: Wm H Allen and Co, 1839). Foyle Special Collections Library [Early Science Collection FOL QK341 ROY]



influence of Indian medicine on other medical traditions. In the same year he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society.

Great Exhibition

In 1838, the East India Company set up a new department to deal with the scientific correspondence relating to the vegetable productions of India. Royle was asked to take charge and, over the next 20 years, in the course of his work there he published several works on the industrial and commercial uses of Indian plants, especially the uses of fibrous plants in cordage and textiles. Royle's interest in the manufactures of India led him to be appointed superintendent of the Indian department of the Great Exhibition of 1851 and later the oriental department of the Paris exhibition of 1855 (for which he was made an officer of the Légion d'Honneur).

Royle died at Acton on the 2 January 1858 and his wife donated his herbarium to the Royal Liverpool Institution. The Roylean Herbarium, as it is known, now forms part of the collections of the World Museum Liverpool. Royle is

commemorated in the names of numerous Himalayan plants and also by the genus *Roylea* Wall. ex Benth.

Medicinal plants

The Foyle Special Collections Library at Chancery Lane holds several of Royle's works, including a copy of his most important, *Illustrations of the botany and other branches of the natural history of the Himalayan Mountains* (1839), a magnificently illustrated work which drew extensively on researches made by Royle while at the botanical garden at Saharanpur.

Medicinal plants feature heavily in this work and Royle also gives an extensive account of the cultivation of native and introduced cotton. The King's College London copy was presented to the College by Royle himself and has recently received much needed conservation treatment, thanks to the generous support of the Society for the History of Natural History, whose current president is Professor Arthur Lucas, the former Principal of King's.

Hugh Cahill

Foyle Special Collections Library

New virtual tour of King's

A NEW VIRTUAL TOUR OF KING'S HAS been launched by the Marketing Department.

Providing a snapshot of life at the College

The tour has 32 views from around three campuses (including the Maughan Library and a view from Waterloo Bridge) and King's halls of residence, visit www.kcl.ac.uk/virtualtour

The virtual tour also includes

information spots in some of the views which adds another layer of value for the user. Marketing worked with SE3 Productions, Revolution Viewing and IMAGIZ to produce the tour.

There is also new set of video clips to help prospective students get a flavour of what King's has to offer, a new set of video clips are now available on the web pages www.kcl.ac.uk/about/video. These provide a snapshot of life at the College and cover our London location, academic strengths, clubs and societies, career

expectations as well as views on graduate study and starting as an international student.

The launch of the new interactive pages coincided with the publication of the 2009 Prospectus. This year's prospectus offers graduate opportunities in an exceptionally wide choice of programmes, subjects and areas of research, and provides an overview of recent news, student testimonials and cultural and social connections. To order a printed copy, go to www.kcl.ac.uk/about/prosrequest



Opening of Year Service

GREG FUNNELL



From left: **Revd Professor Richard BurrIDGE**, **Rt Revd Tom Butler**, **Revd Alistair McGrath**, **Ben Quash**, Professor of Christianity and the Arts, and **Professor Rick Trainor**.

THREE NEW PROFESSORS WERE

installed at this year's Opening of Year Service, held in the College Chapel on 24 September.

Revd Alistair McGrath, Professor of Theology, Education & Ministry; Clemens Sedmak, FD Maurice Professor of Moral & Social Theology and Ben Quash, Professor of Christianity & the Arts, were installed by the Rt Revd Tom Butler, Bishop of Southwark FKC.

The professors were formally inducted into the professorial stalls next to the Principal's stall at the west end of the Chapel by the Dean, in the presence of the Principal with a blessing from the

Bishop of Southwark.

The College choir led the worship and there were Bible readings from, amongst others, Professor Rick Trainor.

The Dean of King's, the Revd Professor Richard BurrIDGE, notes: 'The Opening of Year Service, including, this time, the installation of three new professors, is a good example of being faithful to the traditions of the College whilst having relevance to the 21st century.'

The Opening of Year Service celebrates the start of the new academic year as staff and students return to or join the College for the first time.

Stanford students' visit

IN SEPTEMBER, PROFESSOR PAUL

Sharpe, Head of the Department of Craniofacial Developmental Biology, hosted a visit to the department for 17 medical undergraduate students from Stanford University, California.

The visit was organised as a one-day programme for the

students to tour the department and also the Gordon Museum and Old Operating theatre on Guy's Campus.

Professor Sharpe comments: 'The purpose of the visit was to introduce the Stanford students to leaders in the field of craniofacial biology at King's.'

UN General speaks at King's

GREG FUNNELL



General Martin Luther Agwai (right), Force Commander of the UN African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID), visited the College in September to discuss the realities of the ongoing challenges and the activities of the mission in Western Sudan. General Agwai spoke at the Peace Keeping in Darfur and the Complexities of a Hybrid Force seminar organised by the Conflict, Security & Development Group and chaired by **Dr Funmi Olonisakin**.

The Compass launched

The Compass, the College's first centre offering a variety of services to support students, was opened by the Principal on 1 October. This major new development will provide advice and answers to general enquiries as well as facilitating access to specialist support services.

Professor Phil Whitfield, Vice-Principal (Students), comments: 'King's has always prided itself on the range of ways in which it supports its students. These services have been provided by departments, Schools, administrative sections, welfare services and KCLSU.

The Compass and the Compass Team offer an exciting expansion of these services. They should provide an accessible and responsive source of information and advice for all students across



The Principal, **Professor Rick Trainor**, pictured with Acting Head of The Compass **Karen Hartley**.

the College, with a variety of services available in one place.'

The Compass Team will be accessible to students on all campuses, via telephone, email and the website, and from early

2009, via the Compass student enquiry system which will be reachable at anytime during the day or night.

Initially The Compass will offer a range of core services

including Council tax exemption letters; prospective student enquiries and replacement ID cards, but this will continually developed. Maya Schram, who joins King's this month, will take over from Karen Hartley as Head of Compass Support and will lead a team of 15.

The Compass and relocated Careers Service, which can be found on the B1 floor of the Macadam Building, Strand Campus, will be open from Monday to Friday 09.00-17.00 in term time, with later closing times on Tuesday and Thursday nights.

For more information about the Careers Service visit the web pages at www.kcl.ac.uk/careers or visit their sector specific Facebook pages by searching for the King's Career Networks.

Student wins major award



SET winner **Marie Pang** receiving her award.

MARIE PANG FROM THE DEPARTMENT

of Pharmacy has been named 'Pharmacology Student of the Year' in the 2008 Science, Engineering and Technology (SET) Student of the Year Awards.

Marie beat students from the Universities of Edinburgh and Cambridge with her final year project on in-vitro studies on deferiprone, which was supervised by Robert Hider, Professor of Medicinal Chemistry, and former Head of the School of Biomedical & Health Sciences.

In her work, Marie set out to investigate the reason for the thyroid accumulation of deferiprone. Deferiprone is a drug

discovered by Professor Hider which is used to remove excess iron in the body. As this organ has an important role in producing hormones that control metabolism, the build up of deferiprone could cause toxic effects.

Commenting on her award Marie said: 'It is extremely satisfying to be recognised for the dedication and hard work I put into my project. In particular, I was proud to be representing King's and the Department of Pharmacy. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Professor Hider for his support and guidance.'

Professor Roger Morris, Head of the School of Biomedical & Health Sciences adds: 'This is an excellent achievement and we send her our warm congratulations. I think it is also a special and fitting achievement for Professor Hider in his last year supervising MPharm project students in the department, to have such a prominent success.'

The SET Awards are Britain's and Ireland's most important awards for science, engineering and technology undergraduates. Marie was presented with her award at a ceremony held at the Royal Lancaster Hotel in September.

Students rate King's top

THE RESULTS OF THE FOURTH ANNUAL

National Student Survey, published in September, have shown that the overall satisfaction rate for students at King's is 84 per cent, two per cent above the national figure.

In five subject areas, King's students rated the overall satisfaction as greater than 90 per cent:

- Classics = 98 per cent
- History = 93 per cent
- Music = 95 per cent
- Law = 95 per cent
- Human and Social Geography = 92 per cent

These results also mean that Classics and Music have been voted the best in London. In the case of Law, the School achieved the joint best result in the Russell Group.

A number of subject areas were first in terms of how they rated against other Russell Group Universities in London. Also there was an increase of more than 10 per cent in the response rate by King's students.

In the survey, which is conducted amongst all final-year students at British universities, students are asked a range of questions on the quality of the teaching; assessment and feedback; academic support; course organization and management; the availability of learning resources; and students' personal development.

New minibus for KCLSU

THE COLLEGE RECENTLY RECEIVED

a most generous gift of £20,000 from the late Mrs Eunice Phillips, a King's alumna (Modern History, 1934), who very kindly remembered the College in her will. Her bequest will enable the Students' Union to replace its much-used minibus. The new minibus will have greater capacity and accessibility, meaning that King's students can take part in many more events outside of London.

For more information about this or how you too could remember the College in your will, contact annette.bullen@kcl.ac.uk or visit www.kcl.ac.uk/support/legacies

Lifestyle 50

Dr Stephen Minger, Director of the King's Stem Cell Laboratory, was named by *The Times – Body & Soul* as one of the top 50 people who influence the way the public eat, exercise and think about themselves. Dr Minger was also featured in an article in *THE* about complementary and alternative medicine.

Papyrus to web

CNN, *The Guardian*, *The Independent* and *The New York Times* reported on work by an international team led by **Simon Tanner**, Centre for Computing in the Humanities, who are digitising and photographing every fragment of the Dead Sea Scrolls to publish on the internet.

Health visitors

Professor Sarah Cowley, Florence Nightingale School of Nursing & Midwifery, was interviewed on BBC Radio 5 Live about research which found that nearly half of new mothers see a health visitor just once or twice in the first two months after giving birth.

Tale of Turandot

As a production of Brecht's *Turandot* premiered in the UK **John Deathridge**, Professor of Music, discussed the fable on BBC Radio 4's *Woman's Hour*.

Uni expansion?

Professor Rick Trainor, Principal and President of Universities UK, was interviewed on Radio 4's *Today* programme about the funding of universities and their relationship with the Government. Professor Trainor was also quoted in *The Times*, *The Guardian* and *THE* on higher education issues.

School nurses

Dr Mark Haddad, Institute of Psychiatry, discussed his project which trains school nurses on dealing with mental health issues in *The Guardian*.

EU soft power

Russia and the EU are too interdependent not to formulate a way of living with each other – rhetoric and threats are not the path forward, writes **Denis Corboy**, Former EU ambassador to Georgia and Director of the Caucasus Policy Institute in the *Irish Times*.

Education matters

Jonathan Osborne, Professor of Science Education, was interviewed on the *BBC World Service* about creationism. Professor Osborne also commented on the benefits of teaching primary school children magic tricks in *The Guardian* and research into making science fun in the *New Scientist*.

Patient power

Paul Salkovskis, Professor of Clinical Psychology & Applied Science, took part in BBC Radio 4's *Analysis* programme 'Trust me, I'm a patient' which explored an apparent frenzy of health anxiety coupled with unproven worth and asked if patients are fit for power.

Quentin Bryce

Dr Frank Bongiorno, Senior Lecturer in Australian Studies at the Menzies Centre discussed the appointment of the first female Governor General in Australia on BBC Radio 4's *Woman's Hour*. Quentin Bryce, is the 25th person to take up the post as the Queen's representative in Australia.

Pakistan

Anatol Lieven, Professor of International Relations & Terrorism Studies wrote a number of columns for *The Times* on Pakistan, Russia and Georgia.

Lavender 'calms'

A study of 340 people by **King's College London researchers** that found those exposed to lavender oil scent were less anxious about the treatment ahead was reported in the in *The Daily Telegraph*, *Daily Mail* and BBC News Online.

Penal laws

Penal laws and the persecution of Irish Catholics during the eighteenth century were the subjects of discussion for **Dr Ian McBride**, Department of History, on Newstalk's *Talking History* programme.

A stronger IOC

Gees van Dam, Visiting Professor in the School of Law, wrote to the *International Herald Tribune* about human rights and the International Olympic Committee.

Thames shipwrecks

The BBC 2 documentary *Thames Shipwrecks: A Race Against Time* featured **Professor Andrew Lambert** from the Department of War Studies.

Teens translated

Tony Thorne, Language & Innovation Consultant, Slang & New Language Archive, discussed a new website that provides parents with a dictionary of teenage language on the Channel 5 News. The dictionary aims to breakdown the language barrier.

Life expectancy

Professor Robert Weale, Institute of Gerontology, addressed Russia's failure to focus on the life expectancy of both Russian men and women – which is way below that of the west – and falling in a letter to the *Financial Times*.

'Truman syndrome'

Dr Vaughn Bell, psychologist at the Institute of Psychiatry discussed 21st century psychosis and the 'Truman syndrome' where people believe their every move is being filmed for reality television in an article in *The New York Times*.

Biofuels fright

Professor Tony Allan, Department of Geography, the winner of the Stockholm Water Prize, criticized the growing use of biofuels in an article in the *International Herald Tribune* and urged people to eat less meat to help cut the amount of water used in food production.

Crime rise

Richard Garside, Director of the Centre for Crime & Justice Studies was quoted in an article in *The Guardian* and took part in discussions on Radio 4's *Today* programme and BBC Radio Wales.

Credit crisis

Chris Hamnett, Professor of Human Geography, has written a number of articles recently on the economic situation for the 'Comment is free' section of *The Guardian* website.

See www.kcl.ac.uk/headlines for the latest media coverage or on Campus noticeboards. *Comment* is keen to know of any staff featured in the media, email pr@kcl.ac.uk

Care in rural communities



MEMBERS OF THE SOCIAL CARE

Workforce Research Unit have produced a report for the Commission for Rural Communities which will feed into the Government's forthcoming Care and Support Green Paper.

The report, *The Personalisation of Adult Social Care in Rural Areas*, is based on the views of a range of

people working with older people in rural communities and describes the implications of an ageing rural population and its potential impact on the future of adult social care.

Currently 1 in 12 is over 75 and it is estimated that the number of this will increase by 90 per cent over the next 25 years.

The paper was written by Professor Jill Manthorpe and Dr Martin Stevens. They say: 'Our report explores the likely impact on resource allocations, community social cohesion and the social care workforce in rural areas. We have also identifies the vital role the voluntary sector will play and the need for local government to work in partnership with outside agencies, including rural interest groups, on the personalisation of services.' Read the report at www.ruralcommunities.gov.uk

£100,000 music prize



THE DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC AND

the Centre for Computing in the Humanities (CCH) have been awarded £99,999 by the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC), matched by King's, for the project 'Musicians of Britain and Ireland, 1900-1950'.

The project, which runs for 12 months from October, will digitise around 2,000 recordings of classical music from the King's Sound Archive, highlighting musicians who were stars in Britain and Ireland during the early decades of commercial recording.

The formation of EMI in 1931, through the merger of

Gramophone Co. and Columbia, created a monopoly which, coupled with the effects of the Depression, led to a sharp 'rationalisation' of the catalogue, cutting out many of the local artists. As a result, many very fine performers and recordings have been forgotten and never reissued.

The new project aims to enable a revaluation of the earlier recordings by issuing them in digital formats for free download. The recordings will be combined with the 3,000 being transferred already at King's by the Arts and Humanities Research Council-funded Centre for the History & Analysis of Recorded Music.

King's part of major MRC scheme

King's College London has been included in an award scheme by The Medical Research Council (MRC) to give £10.6 million to fund research to develop better models of human disease.

The grant holders are based in a range of universities across the UK, including University College London, UCL Institute of Ophthalmology, Edinburgh University, University of Manchester, King's College London, Aberdeen University, Oxford University, Queen's University Belfast, UCL Institute of Neurology and UCL Institute of Child Health.

The institutions will look at a wide range of diseases, including diabetes, stroke, heart disease, Huntington's disease and age-related macular degeneration.

An international non-interventional clinical trial to identify markers of disease in people with pre-manifest and early stage Huntington's disease, funded by the Child Health and Development Institute (CHDI)

Foundation (USA) and led by Dr Sarah Tabrizi (Institute of Neurology) is in progress. The MRC, in partnership with the CHDI Foundation, will fund Professor Gillian Bates and Dr Mike Mado at King's to conduct a parallel study in mouse models of Huntington's disease to cross validate markers that are targeted at early stages of disease. and can be used to assess efficacy in preclinical trials.

The MRC call for proposals on models of disease is part of the coordinated approach to translational research agreed between the MRC and the National Institute for Health Research, developed with the Office for Strategic Coordination of Health Research.

Enhanced models of disease will help scientists to learn about disease development and identify potential treatment targets, to test whether new therapies are toxic in any way, and to test how effective new treatments might be as they are developed.

Calming influence of lavender

METAXIA KRITSIDIMA, AN MSC DENTAL

Public Health graduate, working with Dr Koula Asimakopoulou Lecturer in Health Psychology, at the Dental Institute, have discovered that lavender can have a calming influence on nervous dental patients.

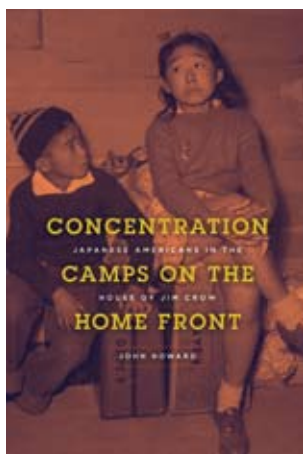
In the study, the dental anxiety levels of 340 adult patients were measured while they waited for a scheduled dental appointment. Some patients were exposed to a lavender scent while the rest were not. Patients who were exposed to the scent reported feeling less anxious than the control group. This significant effect was present regardless of the type of dental appointment (eg routine check up, drilling). However, the exposure to lavender had no effect on the patients' anxiety regarding future dental procedures.

A substantial number of people avoid going to dental surgeries



because they are 'scared of the dentist', which can have a significant impact on their dental health', Metaxia Kritsidima explained. 'The anxiety experienced by these patients once they get to the dentist is stressful not only for them, but also for the dental team.'

She concludes: 'Our findings suggest that lavender could certainly be used as an effective 'on-the-spot' anxiety reduction in dentists' waiting rooms.'



Concentration Camps on the Home Front: Japanese Americans in the House of Jim Crow

Professor John Howard, Head of the Department of American Studies

Without trial and without due process, the United States government locked up nearly all of those citizens and longtime residents who were of Japanese descent during World War II.

Ten concentration camps were set up across the country to confine over 120,000 inmates. The first history of these camps, *Concentration Camps on the Home Front* is an eye-opening account of the inmates' experiences and a searing examination of American imperialism and racist hysteria.

John Howard's extensive research gives voice to those whose stories have been forgotten or ignored. He also exposes the government's aggressive campaign to Americanize the inmates and even convert them to Christianity.

Howard's recreation of life in the camps is a provocative and disturbing. *Concentration Camps on the Home Front* rewrites a notorious chapter in American history – a shameful story that speaks to the strength of human resilience in the face of the most grievous injustices. Chicago University Press



Paranoia: The 21st Century Fear

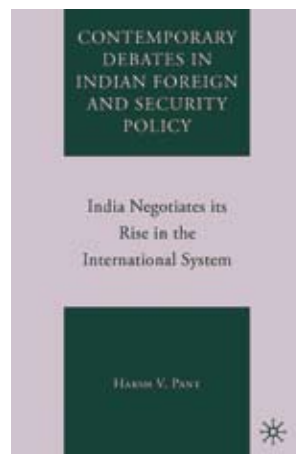
Dr Daniel Freeman, Senior Lecturer in Clinical Psychology, Institute of Psychiatry, and Dr Jason Freeman

Are we living in a uniquely paranoid age? Catalysed by the threat of terrorism, fears about others have reached a new intensity. The roll call of apparent dangers seems to increase by the day: muggers, child abductors, drug dealers, hooded teenagers.

Until recently, no one suspected just how common paranoia was. But new research suggests that around a quarter of us have regular paranoid thoughts, and probably lots more have them occasionally. Yet, although paranoia is as common as depression or anxiety, most of us know almost nothing about it.

What is paranoia? What causes it? Are some people more prone to paranoia than others? Are we more paranoid now than we used to be? How should we deal with our paranoid thoughts? And how can we reduce the amount of paranoia in our society? This lively and accessible book answers these key questions, highlighting for the first time the central role of paranoia in our world today.

Stanford University Press



Contemporary Debates in Indian Foreign and Security Policy: India Negotiates its Rise in the International System

Dr Harsh V Pant, Department of Defence Studies

As a consequence of India's attempts to carve out a foreign policy that is in sync with India's rising stature in the international system, Indian foreign and security policy is currently dealing with a range of issues that are controversial but central to the future of Indian global strategy.

These include India's relations with the US, the idea of a strategic triangle involving Russia, China and India, India's nuclear doctrine and its impact on the emerging civil-military relations.

On almost all these issues, there is an intense debate in the Indian polity and the strategic community and how this debate resolves itself will in many ways determine the direction of Indian foreign policy for years to come.

This book attempts to examine these issues so as to deduce some major trends in the Indian foreign policy of today and argues that while the ongoing debates are all important, they are ultimately of little value as they fail to clarify the singular issue facing India today.

Palgrave Macmillan

Three favourite...

Speciality shops near the Strand Campus

As recommended by Wendy Pank, School Administrator, Information, Publications & Research, Strand Campus

Godiva Chocolates, Russell Street, Covent Garden

Pure indulgence! I rarely think about the Earl of Mercia and his lady when I wander past (or even go in) although the Godiva website tells me that the name was chosen to embody 'timeless qualities of passion, style, sensuality and modern boldness'. And it is remarkably good chocolate!

Culpeper the Herbalist, The Market, Covent Garden

Many years ago I worked in a Culpeper shop, first as Saturday girl, then as temporary manager, in the days when Culpeper sold medicinal herbs, honeys from around the world, and a few soaps and colognes. Culpeper shops now sell aromatherapy oils and skin care products rather than valerian and mistletoe by the ounce. But my main reason for going there now, apart from the nostalgia element, is the catnip toys for cats – they are quite simply the best!

London Review Bookshop, Bury Place

When I want to read something other than medieval studies, I can always find something in the London Review Bookshop, an independent bookshop in Bloomsbury, just near the British Museum. While they do have a website, there's nothing to beat the feel of the printed book and faint aroma of ink in the shop. You can browse for hours – and come away pounds lighter.

Let us know your three favourite things related to a Campus. Email kate.saunders@kcl.ac.uk

Comment is the College's regular newsletter, edited by the Public Relations Department and designed by the Corporate Design Unit | *Comment* is printed on paper produced with 80 per cent recovered fibre | Articles are welcomed from all members of the College, but please note that the Editor reserves the right to amend articles | Copy for the next issue can be sent to the Internal Communications Officer, Public Relations Department (ext 3075), James Clerk Maxwell Building, Waterloo Campus, or emailed to kate.saunders@kcl.ac.uk by **11 November**.